



# **“Spice” and Fentanyl**

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**Cynthia Harding, MPH**

Interim Director

Department of Public Health

**Gary Tsai, MD**

Medical Director and Science Officer

Substance Abuse Prevention and Control

# “Spice”



**Recent Incidents in Skid Row**

**Impact on Emergency Medical Services**

**DPH actions**

# “Spice” Community Outreach and Education

- Health Alert
- Public Communications
- Outreach to residents and service providers on Skid Row
- Town Hall 9/7/16



## Spice (Synthetic Cannabinoid or K2)



**WARNING: Spice use can lead to severe illness and even death**

### 1. What is Spice (also called synthetic cannabinoid or K2)?

Synthetic (man-made) Spice is a drug that is usually sprayed on dried plants, like oregano or basil. It's sold in a solid form that can be smoked, or in a liquid form that can be turned into vapor. Spice is sometimes called “synthetic marijuana”, because the chemicals in Spice are similar to marijuana plants. Spice is also incorrectly labelled as a “safe” or “natural” alternative to marijuana, but it usually has no real marijuana. The only natural parts of this drug are the dried plants. Spice is more powerful than the ingredients in marijuana and is dangerous to use.



### 2. What are the effects of taking Spice?

Spice affects people in many ways. These effects include:

- Death
- Change in behavior
- Fainting
- Extreme anxiety (nervousness)
- Moodiness
- High blood pressure
- Heart beating too fast or too slow
- Nausea (feeling sick)
- Vomiting
- Seizures

### 3. Why is Spice dangerous?

Spice can have unknown, poisonous chemicals in it that cause dangerous health effects. Spice is often sold as an “herbal” product in colorful packages that are attractive to youth. Spice is a newer man-made drug and you can never be sure that it's safe.

# Fentanyl Overdoses

- April 2016, 48 overdoses and 10 deaths in Sacramento County
- No cases were reported in LAC
- Fentanyl is an ongoing concern due to increased street availability



# Opioid Prevention Efforts

- DPH's Safe Med LA, a countywide prescription drug abuse coalition, addresses Fentanyl abuse
  - Safe prescribing guidelines to reduce opioid diversion
  - Community education about safe opioid use and storage





## Next Steps

- Update provider network and stakeholders on new developments in Spice, fentanyl, and other drug use
- Collaborate with first responders, law enforcement, and City and District Attorneys to minimize future outbreaks of Spice, fentanyl, and other drugs